



Aalto University  
School of Electrical  
Engineering

ELEC-E7450  
Performance Analysis

# Basic probability theory

Samuli Aalto  
Department of Communications and Networking

# Contents

- Basic concepts
- Discrete random variables
- Conditional expectation and variance
- Discrete distributions (count distributions)
- Continuous random variables
- Continuous distributions (time distributions)
- Other distributions and random variables

## Sample space, sample points, events

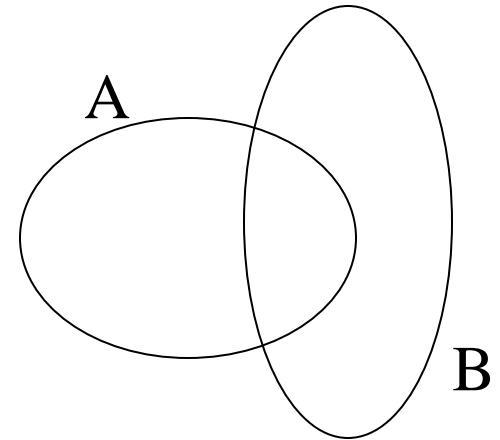
- **Sample space**  $\Omega$  is the set of all possible **sample points**  $\omega \in \Omega$
- **Events**  $A, B, C, \dots \subset \Omega$  are measurable subsets of the sample space  $\Omega$
- Let  $\mathcal{F}$  denote the **set of all events**  $A$ , which constitutes a  $\sigma$ -algebra
  - **Sure event**: The whole sample space  $\Omega \in \mathcal{F}$
  - **Impossible event**: The empty set  $\emptyset \in \mathcal{F}$
  - **Union** “A or B”:  $A \cup B = \{\omega \in \Omega \mid \omega \in A \text{ or } \omega \in B\} \in \mathcal{F}$
  - **Intersection** “A and B”:  $A \cap B = \{\omega \in \Omega \mid \omega \in A \text{ and } \omega \in B\} \in \mathcal{F}$
  - **Complement** “not A”:  $A^c = \{\omega \in \Omega \mid \omega \notin A\} \in \mathcal{F}$
  - Events  $A$  and  $B$  are **disjoint** if  $A \cap B = \emptyset$
  - A set of events  $\{B_1, B_2, \dots\}$  is a **partition** of event  $A$  if
    - (i)  $B_i \cap B_j = \emptyset$  for all  $i \neq j$
    - (ii)  $\cup_i B_i = A$

# Probability

- **Probability** of event  $A$  is denoted by  $P(A) \in [0,1]$ 
  - Probability measure  $P$  is thus a real-valued set function defined on the set  $\mathcal{F}$  of events,  $P: \mathcal{F} \rightarrow [0,1]$

- **Properties:**

- (i)  $0 \leq P(A) \leq 1$
- (ii)  $P(\emptyset) = 0$
- (iii)  $P(\Omega) = 1$
- (iv)  $P(A^c) = 1 - P(A)$
- (v)  $P(A \cup B) = P(A) + P(B) - P(A \cap B)$
- (vi)  $A \cap B = \emptyset \Rightarrow P(A \cup B) = P(A) + P(B)$
- (vii)  $\{B_i\}$  is a partition of  $A \Rightarrow P(A) = \sum_i P(B_i)$
- (viii)  $A \subset B \Rightarrow P(A) \leq P(B)$



## Conditional probability

- Assume that  $P(B) > 0$
- **Definition:**  
The **conditional probability** of event  $A$  given that event  $B$  occurred is defined as

$$P(A | B) = \frac{P(A \cap B)}{P(B)}$$

- It follows that

$$P(A \cap B) = P(B)P(A | B) = P(A)P(B | A)$$

## Theorem of total probability

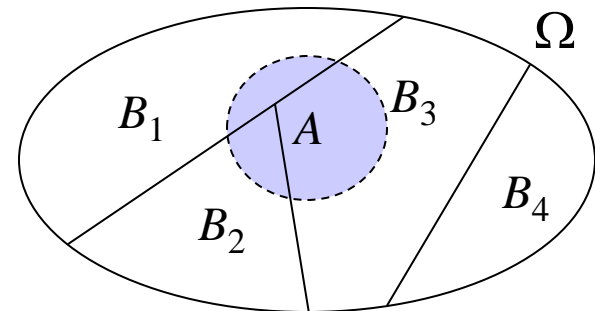
- Let  $\{B_i\}$  be a partition of the sample space  $\Omega$
- It follows that  $\{A \cap B_i\}$  is a partition of event  $A$ . Thus (by slide 4)

$$P(A) \stackrel{(vii)}{=} \sum_i P(A \cap B_i)$$

- Assume further that  $P(B_i) > 0$  for all  $i$ . Then (by slide 5)

$$P(A) = \sum_i P(B_i)P(A | B_i)$$

- This is the **theorem of total probability**



## Statistical independence of events

- **Definition:**  
Events  $A$  and  $B$  are **independent** if

$$P(A \cap B) = P(A)P(B)$$

- If  $A$  and  $B$  are independent, then

$$P(A | B) = \frac{P(A \cap B)}{P(B)} = \frac{P(A)P(B)}{P(B)} = P(A)$$

- Correspondingly:

$$P(B | A) = \frac{P(A \cap B)}{P(A)} = \frac{P(A)P(B)}{P(A)} = P(B)$$

## Random variables

- **Definition:**

Real-valued **random variable**  $X$  is a measurable function defined on the sample space  $\Omega$ ,  $X: \Omega \rightarrow \mathfrak{R}$

– Each sample point  $\omega \in \Omega$  is associated with a real number  $X(\omega)$

- **Measurability** means that all sets of type

$$\{X \leq x\} := \{\omega \in \Omega \mid X(\omega) \leq x\} \subset \Omega$$

belong to the set  $\mathcal{F}$  of events, i.e.,

$$\{X \leq x\} \in \mathcal{F}$$

- The probability of such an event is denoted by  $P\{X \leq x\}$

- **Notation:**

Capital Letters (such as  $X$ ) refer to random variables, while small letters (such as  $x$ ) refer to their values



## Indicators of events

- Let  $A \in \mathcal{F}$  be an arbitrary event
- **Definition:**  
The **indicator** of event  $A$  is a random variable defined by

$$1_A(\omega) = \begin{cases} 1, & \omega \in A \\ 0, & \omega \notin A \end{cases}$$

- Clearly:

$$P\{1_A = 1\} = P(A)$$

$$P\{1_A = 0\} = P(A^c) = 1 - P(A)$$

# Cumulative distribution function

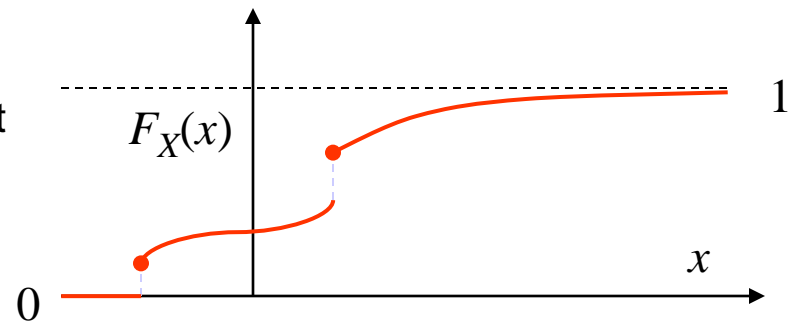
- Definition:**

The **cumulative distribution function (CDF)** of a random variable  $X$  is a function  $F_X: \mathfrak{R} \rightarrow [0,1]$  defined as follows:

$$F_X(x) := P\{X \leq x\}$$

- CDF determines the **distribution** of the random variable, i.e.,
  - the probabilities  $P\{X \in B\}$ , where  $B \subset \mathfrak{R}$  and  $\{X \in B\} \in \mathcal{F}$
- Properties:**

- (i)  $F_X$  is non-decreasing
- (ii)  $F_X$  is continuous from the right
- (iii)  $F_X(-\infty) = 0$
- (iv)  $F_X(\infty) = 1$



## Statistical independence of random variables

- **Definition:**

Random variables  $X$  and  $Y$  are **independent** if for all  $x$  and  $y$

$$P\{X \leq x, Y \leq y\} = P\{X \leq x\}P\{Y \leq y\}$$

- **Definition:**

Random variables  $X_1, \dots, X_n$  are **(totally) independent** if for all  $i$  and  $x_i$

$$P\{X_1 \leq x_1, \dots, X_n \leq x_n\} = P\{X_1 \leq x_1\} \cdots P\{X_n \leq x_n\}$$

- **Definition:**

Random variables  $X_1, \dots, X_n$  are **IID** if they are independent and identically distributed

- **Note:**

If  $X$  and  $Y$  are independent, then also random variables  $f(X)$  and  $g(Y)$  are independent for any (measurable) functions  $f(x)$  and  $g(y)$

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## Discrete random variables

- **Definition:**

Set  $A \subset \mathfrak{R}$  is called **discrete** if it is

- finite,  $A = \{x_1, \dots, x_n\}$ , or
- countably infinite,  $A = \{x_1, x_2, \dots\}$

- **Definition:**

Random variable  $X$  is **discrete** if

there is a discrete set  $S_X \subset \mathfrak{R}$  such that

$$P\{X \in S_X\} = 1$$

- It follows that

- $P\{X = x\} \geq 0$  for all  $x \in S_X$
- $P\{X = x\} = 0$  for all  $x \notin S_X$

- **Definition:**

The set  $S_X$  is called the **value space** of  $X$

## Point probabilities

- Let  $X$  be a discrete random variable
- The distribution of  $X$  is determined by the **point probabilities**  $p_i$ ,

$$p_i := P\{X = x_i\}, \quad x_i \in S_X$$

- **Definition:**

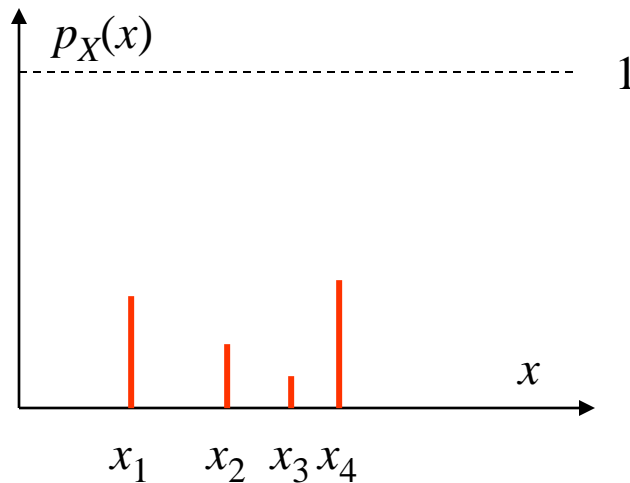
The **probability mass function (PMF)** of  $X$  is defined by

$$p_X(x) := P\{X = x\} = \begin{cases} p_i, & x = x_i \in S_X \\ 0, & x \notin S_X \end{cases}$$

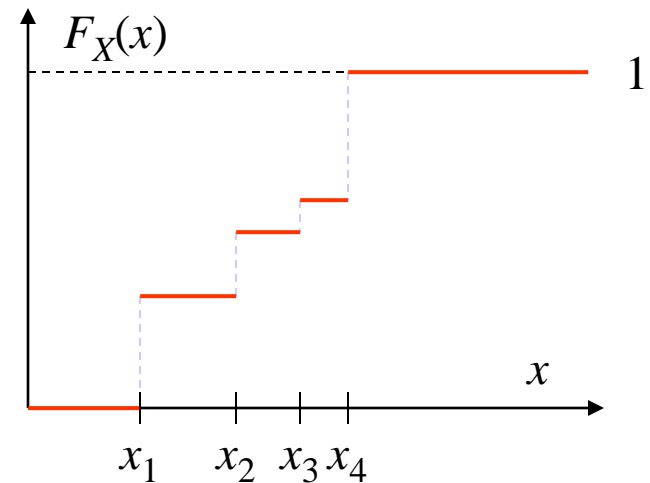
- CDF is in this case a step function:

$$F_X(x) = P\{X \leq x\} = \sum_{i: x_i \leq x} p_i$$

# Example



probability mass function (PMF)



cumulative distribution function (CDF)

$$S_X = \{x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4\}$$

# Expectation

- **Definition:**

The **expectation (mean value)** of a discrete random variable  $X$  is defined by

$$E[X] := \sum_{x \in S_X} P\{X = x\} \cdot x$$

– **Note:** Expectation of an indicator:  $E[1_A] = P\{1_A = 1\} = P(A)$

- **Properties:**

- (i)  $c \in \mathfrak{R} \Rightarrow E[cX] = cE[X]$
- (ii)  $E[X + Y] = E[X] + E[Y]$
- (iii)  $X$  and  $Y$  independent  $\Rightarrow E[XY] = E[X]E[Y]$



## Monotone Convergence Theorem

- **Theorem:**

If  $X_i \geq 0$  for all  $i$ , then

$$E\left[\sum_{i=1}^{\infty} X_i\right] = \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} E[X_i]$$

## Variance

- **Definition:**

The **variance** of  $X$  is defined by

$$D^2[X] := \text{Var}[X] := E[(X - E[X])^2]$$

- Useful formula:

$$D^2[X] = E[X^2] - E[X]^2$$

- **Properties:**

- (i)  $c \in \mathfrak{R} \Rightarrow D^2[cX] = c^2 D^2[X]$
- (ii)  $X$  and  $Y$  independent  $\Rightarrow D^2[X + Y] = D^2[X] + D^2[Y]$

## Other distribution related parameters

- **Definition:**

The **standard deviation** of  $X$  is defined by

$$D[X] := \sqrt{D^2[X]}$$

- **Definition:**

The **coefficient of variation** of  $X \geq 0$  is defined by

$$C[X] := \frac{D[X]}{E[X]}$$

- **Definition:**

The  **$k$ th moment**,  $k = 1, 2, \dots$ , of  $X$  is defined as

$$E[X^k] = \sum_x P\{X = x\} \cdot x^k$$

## Average of IID random variables

- Let  $X_1, \dots, X_n$  be independent and identically distributed (IID) with mean  $\mu$  and variance  $\sigma^2$
- Denote the average (sample mean) as follows:

$$\bar{X}_n := \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n X_i$$

- Then

$$E[\bar{X}_n] = \mu$$

$$D^2[\bar{X}_n] = \frac{\sigma^2}{n}$$

$$D[\bar{X}_n] = \frac{\sigma}{\sqrt{n}}$$

## Law of large numbers (LLN)

- Let  $X_1, \dots, X_n$  be independent and identically distributed (IID) with mean  $\mu$  and variance  $\sigma^2$
- Weak law of large numbers: for all  $\varepsilon > 0$

$$P\{|\bar{X}_n - \mu| > \varepsilon\} \rightarrow 0$$

- Strong law of large numbers: with probability 1

$$\bar{X}_n \rightarrow \mu$$

- It follows that for large values of  $n$

$$\bar{X}_n \approx \mu$$

## Theorem of total probability

- Let  $X$  be a random variable. If  $Y$  is a **discrete** random variable, then

$$P\{X \leq x\} = \sum_j P\{Y = y_j\}P\{X \leq x | Y = y_j\}$$

- Application of the **theorem of total probability**

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## Conditional expectation

- **Definition:**

Let  $X$  and  $Y$  be discrete random variables. The **conditional expectation**  $E[X/Y]$  of  $X$  (conditioned on  $Y$ ) is a random variable defined by

$$E[X | Y] := f(Y)$$

$$f(y) := E[X | Y = y] := \sum_{x \in \mathcal{S}_X} P\{X = x | Y = y\} \cdot x$$

- **Properties:**

- (i)  $E[g(Y) X/Y] = g(Y) E[X/Y]$
- (ii)  $E[X + Y/Z] = E[X/Z] + E[Y/Z]$
- (iii)  $X$  and  $Y$  independent  $\Rightarrow E[X/Y] = E[X]$
- (iv)  $E[E[X/Y]] = E[X]$  (**conditioning rule**)



## Wald's equation

- Let  $X_1, X_2, \dots$  be IID random variables with mean  $E[X]$ . In addition, let  $N$  be another independent random variable taking values in  $\{0, 1, 2, \dots\}$ . The mean of the random sum  $X_1 + \dots + X_N$  is given by Wald's equation

$$E[\sum_{i=1}^N X_i] = E[N]E[X]$$

- Proof:**

$$\begin{aligned} E[\sum_{i=1}^N X_i] &= E[E[\sum_{i=1}^N X_i \mid N]] \\ &= E[N \cdot E[X]] \\ &= E[N] \cdot E[X] \end{aligned}$$

## Conditional variance

- **Definition:**

Let  $X$  and  $Y$  be discrete random variables. The **conditional variance** of  $X$ , conditioned on  $Y$ , is a random variable defined by

$$D^2[X | Y] := E[(X - E[X | Y])^2 | Y]$$

- Useful formula:

$$D^2[X] = E[D^2[X | Y]] + D^2[E[X | Y]]$$

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## Bernoulli distribution

$$X \sim \text{Bernoulli}(p), \quad p \in (0,1)$$

- describes a simple random experiment (called **Bernoulli trial**) with two possible outcomes: success (**1**) and failure (**0**); cf. coin tossing
- success with probability  $p$  (and failure with probability  $1 - p$ )
- Value space:  $\mathcal{S}_X = \{0,1\}$
- Point probabilities:

$$P\{X = 0\} = 1 - p, \quad P\{X = 1\} = p$$

- Mean value:  $E[X] = (1 - p) \cdot 0 + p \cdot 1 = p$
- Second moment:  $E[X^2] = (1 - p) \cdot 0^2 + p \cdot 1^2 = p$
- Variance:  $D^2[X] = E[X^2] - E[X]^2 = p - p^2 = p(1 - p)$

## Binomial distribution

$$X \sim \text{Bin}(n, p), \quad n \in \{1, 2, \dots\}, \quad p \in (0, 1)$$

- number of successes in a finite sequence of **IID Bernoulli trials**;  
 $X = X_1 + \dots + X_n$  with  $X_i \sim \text{Bernoulli}(p)$
- $n$  = total number of experiments
- $p$  = probability of success in any single experiment
- Value space:  $S_X = \{0, 1, \dots, n\}$
- Point probabilities:

$$\binom{n}{i} = \frac{n!}{i!(n-i)!}$$

$$n! = n \cdot (n-1) \cdot \dots \cdot 2 \cdot 1$$

$$P\{X = i\} = \binom{n}{i} p^i (1-p)^{n-i}$$

- Mean value:  $E[X] = E[X_1] + \dots + E[X_n] = np$
- Variance:  $D^2[X] = D^2[X_1] + \dots + D^2[X_n] = np(1-p)$

## Geometric distribution

$$X \sim \text{Geom}(p), \quad p \in (0,1)$$

- number of successes until the first failure in a sequence of **IID Bernoulli trials**
- $p$  = probability of success in any single experiment
- Value space:  $S_X = \{0,1,\dots\}$
- Point probabilities:

$$P\{X = i\} = p^i (1 - p)$$

- Mean value:  $E[X] = \sum_i i p^i (1 - p) = p/(1 - p)$
- Second moment:  $E[X^2] = \sum_i i^2 p^i (1 - p) = 2(p/(1 - p))^2 + p/(1 - p)$
- Variance:  $D^2[X] = E[X^2] - E[X]^2 = p/(1 - p)^2$

## Memoryless property

- Geometric distribution has so called **memoryless property**:  
for all  $i, j \in \{0, 1, \dots\}$

$$P\{X \geq i + j \mid X \geq i\} = P\{X \geq j\}$$

- **Proof:**

$$P\{X \geq i + j \mid X \geq i\} = \frac{P\{X \geq i + j\}}{P\{X \geq i\}} = \frac{p^{i+j}}{p^i} = p^j = P\{X \geq j\}$$

## Poisson distribution

$$X \sim \text{Poisson}(a), \quad a > 0$$

– the limit of binomial distribution as  $n \rightarrow \infty$  and  $p \rightarrow 0$  so that  $np \rightarrow a$

- Value space:  $S_X = \{0, 1, \dots\}$
- Point probabilities:

$$P\{X = i\} = \frac{a^i}{i!} e^{-a}$$

- Mean value:  $E[X] = a$
- Second moment:  $E[X(X-1)] = a^2 \Rightarrow E[X^2] = a^2 + a$
- Variance:  $D^2[X] = E[X^2] - E[X]^2 = a$



## Properties

- (i) **Sum**: Let  $X_1 \sim \text{Poisson}(a_1)$  and  $X_2 \sim \text{Poisson}(a_2)$  be **independent**. Then

$$X_1 + X_2 \sim \text{Poisson}(a_1 + a_2)$$

- (ii) **Random sample**: Let  $X \sim \text{Poisson}(a)$  denote the number of elements in a set, and  $Y$  denote the size of a random sample of this set (each element taken **independently** with probability  $p$ ). Then

$$Y \sim \text{Poisson}(pa)$$

- (iii) **Random sorting**: Let  $X$  and  $Y$  be as in (ii), and  $Z = X - Y$ . Then  $Y$  and  $Z$  are **independent** (given that  $X$  is unknown) and

$$Z \sim \text{Poisson}((1-p)a)$$

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## Continuous random variables

- **Definition:**

Random variable  $X$  is **continuous** if there is an integrable function  $f_X: \mathfrak{R} \rightarrow [0, \infty)$  such that for all  $x \in \mathfrak{R}$

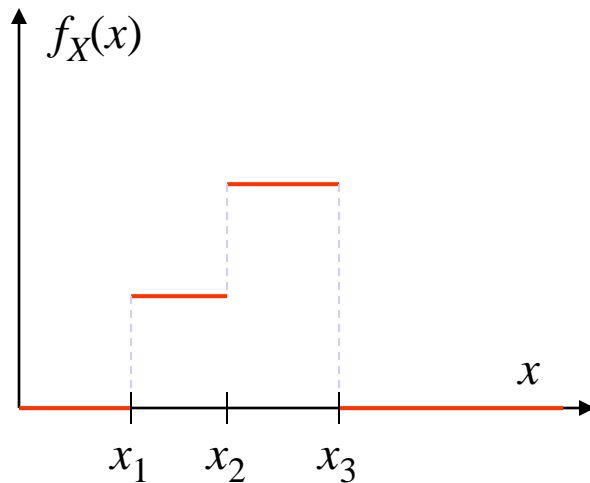
$$F_X(x) := P\{X \leq x\} = \int_{-\infty}^x f_X(y) dy$$

- Function  $f_X$  is called the **probability density function (PDF)**
- Set  $S_X$ , where  $f_X > 0$ , is called the **value space**

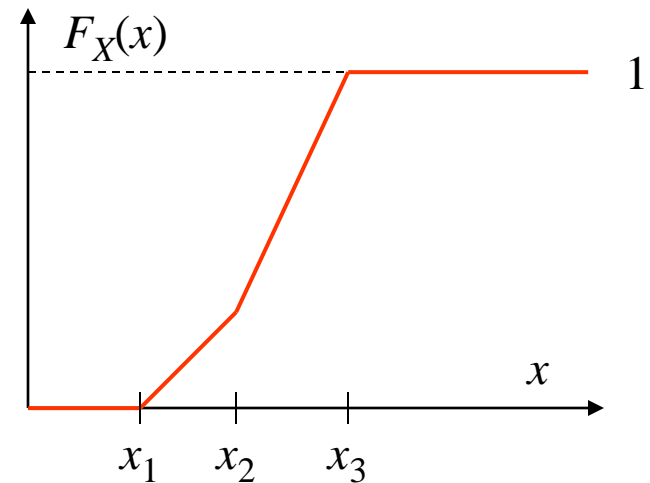
- **Properties:**

- (i)  $P\{X = x\} = 0$  for all  $x \in \mathfrak{R}$
- (ii)  $P\{a < X < b\} = P\{a \leq X \leq b\} = \int_a^b f_X(x) dx$
- (iii)  $P\{X \in A\} = \int_A f_X(x) dx$
- (iv)  $P\{X \in \mathfrak{R}\} = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} f_X(x) dx = \int_{S_X} f_X(x) dx = 1$

# Example



probability density function (PDF)



cumulative distribution function (CDF)

$$S_X = [x_1, x_3]$$

## Expectation and other distribution related parameters

- **Definition:**

The **expectation (mean value)** of  $X$  is defined by

$$E[X] := \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} x f_X(x) dx$$

- **The expectation has the same properties as in the discrete case!**
- The other distribution parameters (variance, standard deviation,...) are defined just as in the discrete case
  - These parameters have the same properties as in the discrete case

## Alternative mean value formula

- If  $X \geq 0$  and  $c \geq 0$ , then

$$E[X] = \int_0^{\infty} P\{X > x\} dx$$

$$E[\min\{X, c\}] = \int_0^c P\{X > x\} dx$$

## Theorem of total probability

- Let  $X$  be a random variable. If  $Y$  is a **continuous** random variable, then

$$P\{X \leq x\} = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} f_Y(y)P\{X \leq x | Y = y\} dy$$

- Application of the **theorem of total probability**

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## From geometric to exponential distribution

- Assume that  $X_n \sim \text{Geom}(1 - \mu/n)$  for some  $\mu > 0$ . Now

$$P\{X_n \geq nx\} = \left(1 - \frac{\mu}{n}\right)^{nx} \rightarrow e^{-\mu x}$$

- Thus, the asymptotic CDF of the rescaled random variable  $X_n/n$  is

$$F(x) = 1 - e^{-\mu x}$$

## Exponential distribution

$$X \sim \text{Exp}(\mu), \quad \mu > 0$$

- continuous counterpart of the geometric distribution (“failure” prob.  $\approx \mu dt$ )
- $\mu$  = intensity (of an exponential phase)
- $P\{X \in (t, t+h] \mid X > t\} = \mu h + o(h)$ , where  $o(h)/h \rightarrow 0$  as  $h \rightarrow 0$
- Value space:  $S_X = (0, \infty)$
- PDF and CDF:

$$f_X(x) = \mu e^{-\mu x}, \quad x > 0$$

$$F_X(x) := P\{X \leq x\} = 1 - e^{-\mu x}$$

## Moments

$$X \sim \text{Exp}(\mu), \quad \mu > 0$$

- Mean value:  $E[X] = \int_0^{\infty} \mu x e^{-\mu x} dx = 1/\mu$
- Second moment:  $E[X^2] = \int_0^{\infty} \mu x^2 e^{-\mu x} dx = 2/\mu^2$
- Variance:  $D^2[X] = E[X^2] - E[X]^2 = 1/\mu^2$
- Standard deviation:  $D[X] = \sqrt{D^2[X]} = 1/\mu$
- Coefficient of variation:  $C[X] = D[X]/E[X] = 1$

## Memoryless property and the residual lifetime

- Exponential distribution has so called **memoryless property**:  
for all  $x, y \in (0, \infty)$

$$P\{X > x + y \mid X > x\} = P\{X > y\}$$

- In fact, only the exponential distribution has this property (among the continuous distributions)
- Consider a random interval of length  $X \sim \text{Exp}(\mu)$ .  
Assume that we know that the interval is longer than  $x$ .  
Due to the memoryless property, the **residual lifetime** is also exponentially distributed with mean  $1/\mu$ :

$$\text{MRL}(x) := E[X - x \mid X > x] = \frac{1}{\mu}$$

- Thus, the **mean residual lifetime** function  $\text{MRL}(x)$  is constant

## Hazard rate

- Consider a random interval of length  $X \sim \text{Exp}(\mu)$ .  
Assume that we know that the interval is longer than  $x$ .  
What is the probability that it will end in an infinitesimal interval of length  $h$  after time  $x$ ?

$$\begin{aligned} P\{X \leq x+h \mid X > x\} &= P\{X \leq h\} = 1 - e^{-\mu h} \\ &= 1 - (1 - \mu h + \frac{1}{2}(\mu h)^2 - \dots) = \mu h + o(h) \end{aligned}$$

- Thus, in the limit ( $h \rightarrow 0$ ), the ending probability per time unit (**hazard rate**) is constant:

$$h(x) := \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{1}{h} P\{X \leq x+h \mid X > x\} = \mu$$

- Again, only the exponential distribution has this property

## Minimum of exponential random variables

- Let  $X_1, \dots, X_n$  be **independent** random variables with  $X_i \sim \text{Exp}(\mu_i)$ . Then

$$X^{\min} := \min\{X_1, \dots, X_n\} \sim \text{Exp}(\mu_1 + \dots + \mu_n)$$

since

$$P\{X^{\min} > x\} = P\{X_1 > x\} \dots P\{X_n > x\} = e^{-(\mu_1 + \dots + \mu_n)x}$$

- In addition, we have

$$E[X^{\min}] = \frac{1}{\mu_1 + \dots + \mu_n}, \quad P\{X^{\min} = X_i\} = \frac{\mu_i}{\mu_1 + \dots + \mu_n}$$

## Erlang distribution

$$X \sim \text{Erl}(n, \mu), \quad \mu > 0$$

- IID exponential phases in a series;  $X = X_1 + \dots + X_n$ , where  $X_i \sim \text{Exp}(\mu)$
- $n$  = total number of phases
- $\mu$  = intensity of any single phase
- Value space:  $S_X = (0, \infty)$
- PDF and CDF:

$$f_X(x) = \mu \frac{(\mu x)^{n-1}}{(n-1)!} e^{-\mu x}, \quad x > 0$$

$$F_X(x) := P\{X \leq x\} = 1 - \sum_{i=0}^{n-1} \frac{(\mu x)^i}{i!} e^{-\mu x}$$

## Moments

$$X \sim \text{Erl}(n, \mu), \quad \mu > 0$$

- Mean value:  $E[X] = E[X_1] + \dots + E[X_n] = n/\mu$
- Variance:  $D^2[X] = D^2[X_1] + \dots + D^2[X_n] = n/\mu^2$
- Second moment:  $E[X^2] = E[X]^2 + D^2[X] = n(n+1)/\mu^2$
- Standard deviation:  $D[X] = \sqrt{D^2[X]} = (\sqrt{n})/\mu$
- Coefficient of variation:  $C[X] = D[X]/E[X] = 1/(\sqrt{n}) \leq 1$



## Mean residual lifetime

- Consider a random interval of length  $X \sim \text{Erl}(n, \mu)$ .  
Assume that we know that the interval is longer than  $x$ .  
What is the mean residual lifetime?

$$\begin{aligned} \text{MRL}(x) &:= E[X - x \mid X > x] \\ &= \frac{\int_x^\infty (1 - F_X(y)) dy}{1 - F_X(x)} = \frac{1}{\mu} \cdot \frac{\sum_{i=0}^{n-1} (n-i) \frac{(\mu x)^i}{i!}}{\sum_{i=0}^{n-1} \frac{(\mu x)^i}{i!}} \end{aligned}$$

- The **mean residual lifetime** function  $\text{MRL}(x)$  is in this case decreasing (starting from  $n/\mu$  and approaching  $1/\mu$ )

## Hazard rate

- Consider a random interval of length  $X \sim \text{Erl}(n, \mu)$ .  
Assume that we know that the interval is longer than  $x$ .  
What is the probability that it will end in a short interval of length  $h$  after time  $x$ ?

$$P\{X \leq x+h \mid X > x\} = \frac{P\{x < X \leq x+h\}}{P\{X > x\}} = \frac{f_X(x)h + o(h)}{1 - F_X(x)}$$

- Thus, the hazard rate is

$$h(x) := \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{1}{h} P\{X \leq x+h \mid X > x\} = \frac{f_X(x)}{1 - F_X(x)} = \mu \cdot \frac{(\mu x)^{n-1}}{(n-1)! \sum_{i=0}^{n-1} \frac{(\mu x)^i}{i!}}$$

- The **hazard rate** function  $h(x)$  is in this case increasing (starting from 0 and approaching  $\mu$ )

## Hyperexponential distribution

$$X \sim \text{Hyp}(n, p_1, \mu_1, \dots, p_n, \mu_n), \quad \mu_i > 0, \quad p_i > 0, \quad \sum_i p_i = 1$$

- IID exponential phases in parallel;  $X = I_1 X_1 + \dots + I_n X_n$  where  $X_i \sim \text{Exp}(\mu_i)$  and  $I_i \sim \text{Bernoulli}(p_i)$  with  $I_1 + \dots + I_n = 1$
- $n$  = total number of phases
- $\mu_i$  = intensity of phase  $i$ ,  $p_i$  = probability of phase  $i$
- Value space:  $\mathcal{S}_X = (0, \infty)$
- PDF and CDF:

$$f_X(x) = \sum_{i=1}^n p_i \mu_i e^{-\mu_i x}, \quad x > 0$$

$$F_X(x) := P\{X \leq x\} = \sum_{i=1}^n p_i (1 - e^{-\mu_i x})$$

## Moments

$$X \sim \text{Hyp}(n, p_1, \mu_1, \dots, p_n, \mu_n), \quad \mu_i > 0, \quad p_i > 0, \quad \sum_i p_i = 1$$

- Mean value:  $E[X] = E[I_1 X_1] + \dots + E[I_n X_n] = p_1/\mu_1 + \dots + p_n/\mu_n$
- 2nd moment:  $E[X^2] = E[I_1 X_1^2] + \dots + E[I_n X_n^2] = 2p_1/\mu_1^2 + \dots + 2p_n/\mu_n^2$
- Variance:  $D^2[X] = E[X^2] - E[X]^2 = \dots$
- Standard deviation:  $D[X] = \sqrt{D^2[X]} = \dots$
- Coefficient of variation:  $C[X] = D[X]/E[X] = \dots \geq 1$

## Mean residual lifetime

- Consider a random interval with length  $X \sim \text{Hyp}(n, p_1, \mu_1, \dots, p_n, \mu_n)$ . Assume that we know that the interval is longer than  $x$ . The mean residual lifetime is now

$$\text{MRL}(x) := \frac{\int_x^{\infty} (1 - F_X(y)) dy}{1 - F_X(x)} = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^n p_i \frac{1}{\mu_i} e^{-\mu_i x}}{\sum_{i=1}^n p_i e^{-\mu_i x}}$$

- The **mean residual lifetime** function  $\text{MRL}(x)$  is in this case increasing (starting from  $p_1/\mu_1 + \dots + p_n/\mu_n$  and approaching  $\max_i 1/\mu_i$ )

## Hazard rate

- Consider a random interval with length  $X \sim \text{Hyp}(n, p_1, \mu_1, \dots, p_n, \mu_n)$ . Assume that we know that the interval is longer than  $x$ . The hazard rate is now

$$h(x) := \frac{f_X(x)}{1 - F_X(x)} = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^n p_i \mu_i e^{-\mu_i x}}{\sum_{i=1}^n p_i e^{-\mu_i x}}$$

- The **hazard rate** function  $h(x)$  is in this case decreasing (starting from  $p_1 \mu_1 + \dots + p_n \mu_n$  and approaching  $\min_i \mu_i$ )

## Pareto distribution

$$X \sim \text{Pareto}(b, \beta), \quad b > 0, \beta > 1$$

- heavy tail distribution
- $b$  = location parameter
- $\beta$  = shape parameter
- Value space:  $\mathcal{S}_X = (0, \infty)$
- PDF and CDF:

$$f_X(x) = \beta b \left( \frac{1}{1+bx} \right)^{\beta+1}, \quad x > 0$$

$$F_X(x) := P\{X \leq x\} = 1 - \left( \frac{1}{1+bx} \right)^{\beta}$$

## Moments

$$X \sim \text{Pareto}(b, \beta), \quad b > 0, \beta > 1$$

- Mean value:  $E[X] = \int_0^{\infty} \beta b x (1 + bx)^{-\beta-1} dx = 1/(b(\beta - 1))$  for  $\beta > 1$
- Second moment:  $E[X^2] = \dots = 2/(b^2(\beta - 1)(\beta - 2))$  for  $\beta > 2$
- Variance:  $D^2[X] = \beta/(b^2(\beta - 1)^2(\beta - 2))$  for  $\beta > 2$
- Standard deviation:  $D[X] = \sqrt{\beta/(b(\beta - 1))\sqrt{(\beta - 2)}}$  for  $\beta > 2$
- Coefficient of variation:  $C[X] = \dots = \sqrt{\beta/\sqrt{(\beta - 2)}} \geq 1$  for  $\beta > 2$



## Mean residual lifetime

- Consider a random interval with length  $X \sim \text{Pareto}(b, \beta)$ . Assume that we know that the interval is longer than  $x$ . The mean residual lifetime is now

$$\text{MRL}(x) := \frac{x \int_x^{\infty} (1 - F_X(y)) dy}{1 - F_X(x)} = \frac{1 + bx}{b(\beta - 1)}$$

- The **mean residual lifetime** function  $\text{MRL}(x)$  is in this case linearly increasing (starting from  $1/(b(\beta - 1))$  and approaching  $\infty$ )

## Hazard rate

- Consider a random interval with length  $X \sim \text{Pareto}(b, \beta)$ . Assume that we know that the interval is longer than  $x$ . The hazard rate is now

$$h(x) := \frac{f_X(x)}{1 - F_X(x)} = \frac{b\beta}{1 + bx}$$

- The **hazard rate** function  $h(x)$  is in this case decreasing (starting from  $b\beta$  and approaching 0)

## Contents

- Basic concepts
- Discrete random variables
- Conditional expectation and variance
- Discrete distributions (count distributions)
- Continuous random variables
- Continuous distributions (time distributions)
- Other distributions and random variables

## Uniform distribution

$$X \sim U(a, b), \quad a < b$$

– continuous counterpart of “casting a dice”

- Value space:  $S_X = (a, b)$
- PDF:

$$f_X(x) = \frac{1}{b-a}, \quad x \in (a, b)$$

- CDF:

$$F_X(x) := P\{X \leq x\} = \frac{x-a}{b-a}, \quad x \in (a, b)$$

- Mean value:  $E[X] = \int_a^b x/(b-a) dx = (a+b)/2$
- Second moment:  $E[X^2] = \int_a^b x^2/(b-a) dx = (a^2 + ab + b^2)/3$
- Variance:  $D^2[X] = E[X^2] - E[X]^2 = (b-a)^2/12$

## Standard normal (Gaussian) distribution

$$X \sim N(0,1)$$

- limit of the “normalized” sum of IID r.v.s with mean 0 and variance 1
- Value space:  $S_X = \mathfrak{R}$
- PDF:

$$f_X(x) = \varphi(x) := \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} e^{-\frac{1}{2}x^2}$$

- CDF:

$$F_X(x) := P\{X \leq x\} = \Phi(x) := \int_{-\infty}^x \varphi(y) dy$$

- Mean value:  $E[X] = 0$
- Variance:  $D^2[X] = 1$

## Normal (Gaussian) distribution

$$X \sim N(\mu, \sigma^2), \quad \mu \in \mathfrak{R}, \quad \sigma > 0$$

– if  $(X - \mu)/\sigma \sim N(0,1)$

- Value set:  $S_X = \mathfrak{R}$
- PDF:

$$f_X(x) = F_X'(x) = \frac{1}{\sigma} \varphi\left(\frac{x-\mu}{\sigma}\right)$$

- CDF:

$$F_X(x) := P\{X \leq x\} = P\left\{\frac{X-\mu}{\sigma} \leq \frac{x-\mu}{\sigma}\right\} = \Phi\left(\frac{x-\mu}{\sigma}\right)$$

- Mean value:  $E[X] = \mu + \sigma E[(X - \mu)/\sigma] = \mu$
- Variance:  $D^2[X] = \sigma^2 D^2[(X - \mu)/\sigma] = \sigma^2$

## Properties

- (i) **Linear transformation**: Let  $X \sim N(\mu, \sigma^2)$  and  $\alpha, \beta \in \mathbb{R}$ . Then

$$Y := \alpha X + \beta \sim N(\alpha\mu + \beta, \alpha^2\sigma^2)$$

- (ii) **Sum**: Let  $X_1 \sim N(\mu_1, \sigma_1^2)$  and  $X_2 \sim N(\mu_2, \sigma_2^2)$  be **independent**.  
Then

$$X_1 + X_2 \sim N(\mu_1 + \mu_2, \sigma_1^2 + \sigma_2^2)$$

- (iii) **Sample mean**: Let  $X_i \sim N(\mu, \sigma^2)$ ,  $i = 1, \dots, n$ , be **IID**. Then

$$\bar{X}_n := \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n X_i \sim N\left(\mu, \frac{1}{n} \sigma^2\right)$$

## Central limit theorem (CLT)

- Let  $X_1, \dots, X_n$  be IID with mean  $\mu$  and variance  $\sigma^2$  (and the third moment exists)
- Central limit theorem (CLT):

$$\frac{1}{\sigma/\sqrt{n}} (\bar{X}_n - \mu) \xrightarrow{\text{i.d.}} \text{N}(0,1)$$

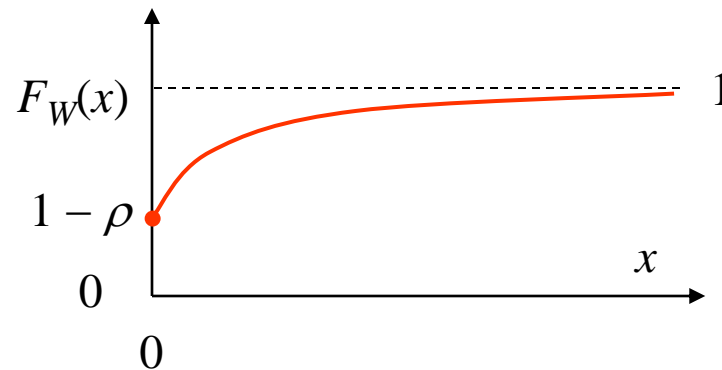
- It follows that for large values of  $n$

$$\bar{X}_n \approx \text{N}\left(\mu, \frac{1}{n} \sigma^2\right)$$



## Other random variables

- In addition to discrete and continuous random variables, there are so called **mixed** random variables
  - containing some discrete as well as continuous portions
- **Example:**
  - The customer waiting time  $W$  in an M/M/1 queue has an **atom** at zero ( $P\{W=0\} = 1 - \rho > 0$ ) but otherwise the distribution is continuous



## Summary

- **Basic concepts**
  - Probability, conditional probability, independence, random variable, indicator, distribution, cumulative distribution function
- **Discrete random variables**
  - Point probabilities, expectation, variance, coefficient of variation
- **Conditional expectation and variance**
  - Conditioning rule, random sum of random variables, Wald's equation
- **Discrete distributions (count distributions)**
  - Bernoulli( $p$ ), Bin( $n,p$ ), Geom( $p$ ), Poisson( $a$ )
- **Continuous random variables**
  - Density function, expectation
- **Continuous distributions (time distributions)**
  - Exp( $\mu$ ), memoryless property, phase-type distributions, hazard rate, MRL

## Appendix: Useful formulas (1)

- Geometric sum:

$$\sum_{i=0}^{\infty} x^i = \frac{1}{1-x}, \quad 0 < x < 1$$

- Exponential function (1):

$$\sum_{i=0}^{\infty} \frac{x^i}{i!} = e^x, \quad x \in \mathfrak{R}$$

- Exponential function (2):

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left(1 + \frac{x}{n}\right)^n = e^x, \quad x \in \mathfrak{R}$$

## Appendix: Useful formulas (2)

- Binomial theorem:

$$(a + b)^m = \sum_{n=0}^m \frac{m!}{n! (m-n)!} a^n b^{m-n}$$

- Multinomial theorem:

$$(a_1 + \dots + a_k)^m = \sum_{n \in S_m} \frac{m!}{n_1! \dots n_k!} a_1^{n_1} \dots a_k^{n_k}$$

$$S_m := \{n = (n_1, \dots, n_k) \geq 0 \mid n_1 + \dots + n_k = m\}$$